

# HOME FOR EVERY AMERICAN

## COUNTY LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Lincoln County, OR Commissioner Bill Hall

Lincoln County, Oregon Commissioner Bill Hall was an active partner in the 2006 first-ever Oregon Leadership Summit on Ending Chronic Homelessness convened in Oregon's capital of Salem by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to bring together state officials and jurisdictions engaged in 10-year planning efforts. With a call to "let us begin," Commissioner Hall encouraged partnership and cited the urgency of undertaking a 10-Year Plan in his rural community of Newport/ Lincoln County on the Oregon coast, noting the availability of the Housing First technology: "I find this approach so promising because it makes the best sense from an economic perspective- - providing people with housing really is less costly than arresting them and putting them in jail or treating them in the emergency room, and it's also the most humane approach. It gives people the best chance to achieve stable and productive lives."

In 2007, Commissioner Hall, co-author of the Lincoln County Plan, joined community partners for the unveiling of *At Home in Lincoln County*, the culmination of over a year's effort to gather data, solicit community input through forums, stakeholder meetings, and interviews with people experiencing homelessness, and identify the best evidence-based practices at work across the nation that could be brought to bear in ending homelessness in Lincoln County. The unveiling was held jointly with the community's inaugural Project Homeless Connect event.

Commissioner Hall noted the potential of the Lincoln County Plan to leverage new resources given developments in Oregon's state initiatives, including the 2006 signing by Governor Ted Kulongoski of an Executive Order creating the Governor's Ending Homelessness Advisory Council to work in close association with local 10-year planning processes to end chronic homelessness in Oregon.

*At Home in Lincoln County* incorporates Housing First and permanent supportive housing strategies with special attention to those experiencing chronic homelessness, young people aging out of foster care, victims of domestic violence, re-entry strategies for those previously incarcerated or on probation, and workforce housing.